

Application No. 10/759,274
Amendment dated July 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2006

Docket No.: 3624-0147P

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 11-20 are now pending in this application.

Claim 1 has been amended, claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and claims 12-20 have been added. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over US Publication 2003/0083149 to Scarpa et al in view of US Patent 6,506,125 to Helmstetter et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 2, 10 and 11 to contain allowable subject matter.

The subject matter of claims 9 and 10 have been incorporated into claim 1. As such, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be in condition for allowance. Also independent claim 20 includes the limitations of claim 1 and claim 11. As such, all claims should be in condition for allowance. Moreover, claim 7 should now be considered and allowed with the remaining claims. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

Because the additional documents cited by the Examiner have been included merely to show the state of the prior art and have not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 703-205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area if there are any outstanding matters remaining in this application.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.


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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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